



**International Association of
Chiefs of Police**

515 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2357
Phone: 703/836-6767; 1-800/THE IACP
Fax: 703/836-4543
Cable Address: IACPOLICE

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Chief of Police
Concord, NH

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Choctaw, OK

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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of)
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The Development of Operational,)
Technical, and Spectrum)
Requirements for Meeting)
Federal, State and Local Public)
Safety Agency Communication)
Requirements Through the)
Year 2010)

WT Docket No. 96-86

RECEIVED
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Federal Communications Commission
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COMMENTS

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), on behalf of Law Enforcement Officers throughout the United States, expresses its support for the final report of the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC) which outlined the spectrum needs of public safety through the year 2005.

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As a personal observation, I have seen the difficulties that various states, including New Hampshire, have experienced in trying to establish state-wide frequencies. This entire PSWAC report deals with the extremely complex issue of spectrum allocation, and is a major effort to resolve those difficulties.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police has supported the work of the Project 25 effort to develop a digital standard which promotes interoperability and competition in the marketplace.

This voluntary standard was developed with the direction and oversight of our members, as well as other public safety users.

The Federal Communications Committee should not impede the progress or the deployment of this voluntary Project 25 Digital Standard.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police wishes to express its concern referencing Section 2.3 of the PSWAC final report, which recommends that channels recovered from other private radio services be considered for reallocation to Public Safety.

Deliberations of the various committee observers from IACP indicated that compelling cases were made by the transportation, utilities, and other industrial users as to the use of radio spectrum in the safety of life and property in their operation, as well as the need at times to interoperate with Public Safety. They expect that their need to expand this type of communications will continue to increase, thus requiring the use of any "re-farmed" spectrum to fulfill these needs. It is IACP's position that their spectrum should not be considered a part of the solution for the Public Safety spectrum shortfall.

Summary:

The IACP membership of over 14,000 professionals dedicated to enhancing the art and science of law enforcement, and to protecting life and property, views this proposed rule making coming from the Commission as a major milestone in the future of police and local government communications for now, and to the next decade.

We support the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee Report as the industry input to WT #96-86.

Once again, we emphasize the need for immediate action in making spectrum available for Public Safety.

Respectfully submitted by the President
International Association of Chiefs of Police



David G. Walchak
Chief of Police, Concord, New Hampshire

October 18, 1996

We are keenly aware of the existing shortage of spectrum that exists in many areas of our country especially the metropolitan areas and the need to maximize spectrum efficiency where possible but the fact of the matter is that, even with utilizing the most advanced technology available today, we still find spectrum deficiencies to fulfill our most basic communications needs much less the ability to provide adequate spectrum to support the emerging technologies of video, data and transaction processing. The Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Louis J. Freeh, in his opening remarks before the committee on the Judiciary of the United States Senate in April of 1995, outlined the problem in operational terms.

"Law enforcement must have the ability to communicate rapidly by radio and other forms of wireless communications. Local, state and Federal law enforcement officers and agencies must be able to talk among themselves so that a state trooper on America's highways -- like Oklahoma -- has the full benefit of law enforcement's knowledge as he approaches a car with a suspect in it."

The IACP supports the PSWAC Final Report conclusion that addresses the problem cited by Director Freeh:

"Unless immediate measures are taken to alleviate spectrum shortfalls and promote interoperability, Public Safety agencies will not be able to adequately discharge their obligations to protect life and property in a safe, efficient and cost-effective manner".

To this end, IACP implores the Commission to expeditiously begin the required regulatory proceeding that will provide Law Enforcement and other public safety entities the desired spectrum relief.

In May of 1993 IACP filed with the Commission comments in the PR 92-235 proceeding, "Refarming", that we feel benefit being repeated here:

"Law Enforcement has unique needs requiring the use of proven communications technologies. We cannot abandon our existing structure until we can be assured that these needs can be met at a level which does not compromise existing quality and eliminate current equipment features at comparable costs. In addition, we believe that with the increase in demand for more information at the 'street level' the requirement for more spectrum with broader bandwidths to accommodate these demands will continue".

We feel that the PSWAC Final Report validates our conclusions of 1993. The work of PSWAC has had the active support of many of our members and their organizations, the unique needs of law enforcement as well as our emphasis on certain required propagation characteristics have been factored into the projected 15-year spectrum requirement of approximately 100 MHZ with a need for an immediate release of 25 MHZ.